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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Jonathan Lever Joins Madison Community Foundation
as President and CEO After National Search**

Madison, WI – Oct. 22, 2026 – Madison Community Foundation (MCF) is pleased to welcome Jonathan Lever as President and Chief Executive Officer, effective Feb. 1, 2027. Lever is succeeding Bob Sorge, who is retiring after serving as MCF's President and CEO for 14 years.

"After a comprehensive national search, the Board is excited to welcome Jonathan as the organization's new President and CEO," said Anne Lucke, Chair of Madison Community Foundation's Board of Governors. "We had a very talented, diverse candidate pool, and Jonathan rose to the top thanks to his exceptional combination of strategic vision, proven nonprofit leadership and commitment to fostering inclusive organizational cultures. His strong alignment with our mission and values, and his ability to build relationships and work collaboratively will support the tremendous growth the Foundation has experienced under outgoing President and CEO, Bob Sorge."

Lever brings more than 25 years of leadership experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. He joins MCF from the John E. Fetzer Institute, where he serves as Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Corporate Secretary, and where he partners with the CEO and Board to steward an \$800 million endowment and \$40 million operating and grantmaking budget. At the Fetzer Institute, Lever leads enterprise functions including finance, operations, talent, legal compliance and organizational effectiveness. His tenure includes reshaping strategy, diversifying leadership and staff, and redesigning organizational structure to transition the Institute from an operating foundation to a grantmaking institution.

The search for Sorge's successor was handled by Kittleman Nonprofit CEO Search & Executive Recruiting, a firm based in Chicago that specializes in recruitment for nonprofit organizations.

"It's been an incredible honor to serve our community in this capacity," said Sorge. "I have every confidence in Jonathan, the MCF Board and the MCF Staff to take the community's foundation to the next level."

Throughout his career, Lever has demonstrated institutional stewardship, collaborative leadership, donor engagement, and the capacity to unify stakeholders around shared purpose and measurable community impact. He has held ascending leadership roles at YMCA of the USA, culminating as Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer and prior to that, founded and led the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida.

“My enduring curiosity about how meaningful change happens drew me to this position. As a community foundation, MCF has the ability to connect generosity, relationships and a deep understanding of place to help Madison shape its own future,” said Lever.

“I am excited for the chance to help steward an institution that is trusted and admired within its community,” said Lever. “I am excited to put down roots in Madison and to listen and learn from the people here about how we can build on the Foundation’s remarkable legacy.”

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About Madison Community Foundation: MCF works with donors and nonprofit organizations to achieve its mission to engage Greater Madison in philanthropy to advance a more vibrant and equitable community. It serves nearly 600 individual and 300 nonprofit fundholders, and in 2025, together with its fundholders, distributed \$31 million into the community. To learn more visit www.madisongives.org.